LAE 4335 Conceptual Unit

Teaching English by Design

A whole conceptual unit of instruction, which is worth 25% of your grade, is due at the end of the course. Either individually or in collaboration with one or two other students, you will prepare a teaching unit encompassing about four to six weeks that ideally you will use in student teaching or another anticipated teaching assignment.

The unit will organize literature and other texts around a concept, such as one of the following:

• **a *theme*,** that is, a series of texts that treat a recurring motif, such as the outcast, gender roles, war and peace, or prejudice; see, for example, http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Theme\_(literature)

• **a *reading strategy*,** that is, an approach to reading that enables better understanding of a literary technique, such as learning how to understand narrative perspective, learning how to read ironic texts, or learning how to read poetry

• **a *literary period***that is both significant and thematically unified, such as Victorian literature (see, e.g., http://literaryexplorer.blonde librarian.net)

• **a *literary movement***, that is, literature produced by people with a shared philosophical or social perspective, such as realism, transcendentalism, metaphysical poets, or surrealism (see, e.g., http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Literary\_movement)

• **a *literary region***in which the authors share some kind of common vision, obstacle, stimulus, or other governing perspective, such as the British Lake poets, Southern fiction, frontier literature, or the Harlem Renaissance

• the ***literary output*** of a significant author, often Shakespeare but including any author who merits intensive study

• **a *literary genre***, that is, a set of texts with a shared structure and accompanying tropes and themes, such as the epic journey, the fantasy novel, the picaresque novel, the memoir, science fiction (genres in this sense do *not* include the short story, the poem, or other highly differentiated forms with no thematic continuity); see, e.g., http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Literary\_genre.

The unit should include:

* at least one commonly taught work of literature;
* various genres of literature, and/or media;
* works by diverse authors;
* technology (teacher and student use);
* activities that promote the five strands of language arts (reading, writing, listening, viewing, and speaking);
* a rationale (minimum of 3 pages) which includes:
* an argument justifying the relevance of the unit, concepts, literature, and pedagogy tied to theory, research, or similar scholarship;
* the kinds of students for whom the unit is designed;
* key themes, concepts, and/or questions to be explored throughout the unit;
* an inventory/table of contents;
* a calendar outlining in brief the schedule of the unit's activities;
* goals and their assessment rubrics;
* appropriate and varied pedagogical strategies and activities which require student thinking;
* assessment or evaluation of that student thinking;
* rubrics for any assessment;
* an inquiry-based introductory activity for the unit;
* all of the materials needed for the unit and copies of them (unless they're novels or videos or something bulky ); and
* 4 to 6 weeks' (20-30 class days) worth of lesson plans which include daily objectives keyed to current Florida’s Sunshine State Standards for students in the grade level of your unit, ESOL modifications, and assessments. (See lesson plan template.)

You will find model units available at the Virtual Library of Instructional Units, at www.coe.uga.edu/~smago/VirtualLibrary/index.html. You should download the units that are specified in the course textbook (and any oth­ers you wish to view or use) as models of good unit design. Note that units listed in red are identified as exemplary units. In addition, these units will serve as instructional tools when we go over how to produce various com­ponents (rationale, goals, and so on) of your own unit. Specific information on how to develop each of these components will be provided during the semester.

A rubric for the evaluation of this unit of instruction is available at<http://www.coe.uga.edu/~smago/rubrics/unitrubric.html>*.*